

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY & IN GRATITUDE OF DENNY MOE'S SUPERSTAR BARBERSHOP SECOND ANNUAL CUTTING FOR A CURE 48 HOUR MARATHON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of an outstanding act of community service by the organization and non-profit, Cutting For A Cure, and its founder, Dennis Mitchell. I am proud of the work being done by extraordinary people in the fight to bring awareness and combat very serious health issues, like HIV/AIDS, which has disproportionately affected Blacks, women and other minority members of the Harlem community and the city at large. At the forefront of that movement is Denny Moe's Barbershop and Cutting for a Cure, a community based organization founded to increase the awareness of preventive health care and the importance of early detection and screening.

In hosting the 2nd Annual Cutting for a Cure event, a 48 hour hair-cutting, medical screening and entertainment marathon which commenced on June 25 and ended on June 27, in partnership with National HIV Testing Day to gain exposure for its cause, the organization employed the help of volunteer barbers, entertainers, doctors, nurses and medical technicians to cause a tangible effect in Harlem by raising the awareness of early screening as a means of preventive health maintenance.

With a mobile medical van and team of medical personnel on location, the organization offered screening for diseases ranging from diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension, high cholesterol, breast, prostate and colon cancer, asthma, kidney disease, and of course, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS in its effort to provide people with the means of early detection. Doctors have repeatedly offered evidence that early diagnosis of certain diseases such as cancers of the colon and the prostate give those who are diagnosed early ability to aggressively combat their illness in the hope of eliminating it and continuing their lives free of disease.

I would like to formally commend Cutting for a Cure for its work in raising health awareness and promoting early diagnosis of the health issues which unevenly affect minorities in our urban centers. The aim of the organization is to offer free health screening clinics with the support of local and corporate business sponsorship, area hospitals and health care professionals to provide local residents an opportunity to get tested right in their own neighborhoods and on their commercial streets and blocks. With help from sponsors such as the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, St. Luke's Roosevelt, Harlem Hospital Center, Central Harlem Health Revival, Harlem United, Barbershop Quartet, Apple Bank, The New York Times, Crunch Gyms and many others, Cutting for a Cure is effectively addressing an epidemic of preventable disease and death right here in Harlem, throughout my Congressional District and the greater New York City at large.

Founder, Mr. Dennis Mitchell, affectionately known as Denny Moe, is the Harlem barber-

shop owner of Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop and the catalyst for the creation of Cutting for a Cure. Denny Moe was diagnosed earlier this year with Type II diabetes and has used his detection and influence in the community as a business owner to take action with the end goal of bettering lives. Inspired by the health concerns and issues he heard from his many customers who sat in the chairs of his barber shop and friends and family members who became affected by disease and various cancers, he noticed a pattern of certain diseases affecting his customers more than others and the tragedy of people dying due to being diagnosed too far along into their illnesses.

Denny realized that something must be done to stem the tide of African Americans who were losing their lives unnecessarily prematurely due to lack of awareness and inadequate health care. That realization was the seed for the birth of Cutting for a Cure and the work began to offer the community help in the form of education and medical evaluation. Emphasizing the importance of periodic check-ups and healthy living in order to prevent disease is the means used by Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop to help the people of Harlem and the community around him in his effort to highlight the disparity in the quality of health care offered in urban communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, the efforts of this organization to effect positive change in the lives of other New Yorkers is invaluable and I am honored to commend its work. The organization's motto of "One ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" is an ideal which it promotes heavily while educating the community that disease prevention is the best method of living a healthy life. The citizens of New York City can only benefit from individuals and organizations such as Mr. Dennis "Denny Moe" Mitchell and Cutting for a Cure as they enrich the lives of others as they continue to help our community.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res 1405, a resolution celebrating 50 Years of African independence. I thank Mr. RUSH for sponsoring this important resolution and for his work as a champion for Africa here in Congress. Mr. RUSH's leadership, along with that of Representatives DONALD PAYNE and ED ROYCE, in shaping policies that help foster economic vitality and good governance on the continent is truly commendable.

I was a lead cosponsor of this resolution because it recognizes the importance of good governance and democratic principles, which have flourished in many African countries over the past decade. Indeed, more than two-thirds of sub-Saharan African countries have held democratic elections since 2000. Moreover, several nations, from Senegal to Tanzania, and from Ghana to Zambia have seen suc-

cessful power changes over the past decade. The United States Department of State has expressed its commitment to supporting African efforts to fortify government accountability and overall good governance, which is crucial to the continent's future growth and global influence.

The resolution commends the socio-economic and political progress being made by African countries, while acknowledging the associated challenges that many still face. According to a June 2010 McKinsey Global Institute report entitled "Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies," over the past decade "Africa's economic pulse has quickened, infusing the continent with new commercial vibrancy." Africa's combined consumer spending in 2008 was \$860 billion, and America is committed to partnering with African nations to foster economic development, entrepreneurship and trade in the continent.

Kofi Annan, Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP) recently noted that "Africa's future is in its own hands, but that success in managing its own affairs depends on supportive global policies and agreements." H. Res. 1405 comes at a time when the world is taking notice of Africa's great progress in recent years and it reaffirms the United States' commitment to growth and prosperity in Africa.

This resolution is a celebration of the hope that resonates in the hearts and minds of the many Africans, African Americans, policy-makers, and NGOs that are committed to Africa's progress and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING OF THE STICKBALL HALL OF FAME ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION OF ITS 2010 HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stickball Hall of Fame, an institution that promotes and preserves the great athletic tradition of stickball that has been a mainstay of urban life in America and has helped countless youths learn about the precepts of fair play, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence. The Stickball Hall of Fame has recognized and commemorated a sport which truly represents the spirit and innovation that exemplifies New York, our nation's greatest city.

Adapted from and closely linked to our great national pastime of baseball, stickball helped transform the urban landscape of 20th century America. Since the 1920s, the game of stickball has been an important team sport in cities across the country, where it served to strengthen personal relationships between families and friends, and forged strong bonds within the communities in which it was played.

In 1968 in New York City, a group known as the 111th Street Old Timers was formed. It organized an annual festival centered around the game of stickball. In 1999 the group began to focus its efforts on reaching out to the kids and seniors within the community. The group raised money to send youths to summer camp, established a scholarship fund, and distributed toys to children in hospitals. Today we